

Fellowship in Prayer



"For a world united in prayer"

"We thank thee, O God, for our country. We praise thee for the blessings which have been showered upon it all through the years. We are grateful for the true and noble men and women who, by their contributions, have made it great and strong. Wilt thou continue to shed thy grace upon it and crown its good with brotherhood. Amen."

OUR PURPOSE

“To promote the practice of prayer among *all* religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind.”

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

22 E. 29th Street

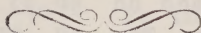
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GOD KEEP AMERICA



God keep America,
And only bless her insofar
As she prove a blessing
To all the world.

Grant her wisdom to avoid
Any false dependence,
Any brave superstructure
Tall only for toppling,
And whose foundations are not dug
Deep in a soil that does not shift.

Make her musical name
"America" sacramental,
The signature of hope and faith,
The instant association
With whatsoever things
Are excellent in Thy sight,
And strong therefore,
Perdurable, bound up with
That which was, and is
And shall not pass away.

—A. E. Johnson.



PRAYERS FOR THE HOMELAND

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

On May 18, 1940, it was announced throughout the world that King George VI of Great Britain planned to have Sunday, May 26, observed as an "Empire Day of Prayer." This royal appeal for a day of national prayer was based on a dramatic war situation. The British Expeditionary Force was surrounded by the enemy, and Hitler had publicly announced that the British Army was trapped, and nothing could save it from destruction! But Hitler forgot one vital fact, namely, the Power of Prayer to God for deliverance from a war-mad tyrant!

On Sunday, May 26, 1940, millions of men, women, and children crowded into their churches and chapels throughout the British Empire to pray for Divine deliverance. Within forty-eight hours God sent such a dense fog over the English Channel and over Dunkirk that enemy aircraft were unable to see the hundreds of boats of all descriptions that put out from English harbors to rescue the men who were struggling to reach the French side of the Channel. It is a matter of history that not only did the dense fog come, but the English Channel was more peace-

ful than it had been for many years. Even small boats were able to take part in the mammoth rescue operations. Three hundred and thirty-five thousand men that Hitler swore to destroy were miraculously saved by way of Dunkirk because an empire on its knees in prayer had been heard of God!

The atheist may sneer at this story, but hundreds of thousands of men snatched from death, and other millions of people who prayed for their deliverance know beyond all contradiction that God hears and answers prayer, and that the Hitlers of this world are no match for Almighty God.

No wonder that The New York Times in a memorable article said:

"So long as the English tongue survives, the word 'Dunkirk' will be spoken with reverence."

And here in the United States there have been prayers for the homeland, all through our history, even up to this present date. Leading in these prayers we find our President and many distinguished individuals.

The United States of America is grounded in religious faith. "In the Name of God, Amen" began the compact of the

"Mayflower." The Declaration of Independence contains a number of references to God as "The Creator," "Supreme Judge of the Universe," and mentions "Divine Providence."

Throughout our history every President has taken his oath of office with the words "So help me God." Every judge, every congressman, every witness in court has vowed to tell the truth, with his hand upon the Bible. And in 1865 Congress reaffirmed the stand of the founders by authorizing the currency of the nation to be stamped with these four words "In God We Trust."

Dr. John Franklin Goucher informs us:

"Christianity accounts for the discovery and settlement of America, it determined our governmental organization, and has been the dominating influence in our national development."

The Dutch of New York brought their religion with them. New Jersey was settled largely by Presbyterians. The Quakers of Pennsylvania had deep-rooted principles of Christian faith and reverence for God. Delaware was settled by Christian Swedes. The Charter of Carolina granted in 1663 recites that the petitioners were "excited with a laudable zeal for the propagation of the Christian Faith." The settle-

ment of Georgia was influenced largely by Moravians and Presbyterians.

Mr. James Bryce declared, "It was religious zeal which led to the founding of the New England Colonies." Justice Allen states: "Christianity is not the legal religion of the states, but it is in fact, and ever has been the religion of the people." Professor Story, in his noted work on the Constitution writes: "There never has been a period in which the common law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundation." Judge Strong declares: "The laws and institutions of the States are built on the foundation of reverence for Christianity."

The Supreme Court of the United States in 1892 rendered a decision that "This is a Christian Nation." In 1787, when difficulties arose at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin rose and addressed George Washington, the Chairman:

"The small progress we have made is a melancholy proof of the imperfection of human understanding. . . I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow

cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. . . I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business. . ."

A statement like this coming from Benjamin Franklin is indeed an endorsement of the vital importance of prayer for the nation. Also, it is interesting to note the fact that within a week after Franklin made this suggestion, the delegates began to bring a Constitution out of chaos.

From the beginning of our history as a nation up to this present moment, it is this recognition of God, together with Prayers for the Homeland, that has kept us safe and free.

The picture of George Washington kneeling in prayer is no product of imagination, but actual truth, and all through

the years our presidents have sought divine protection for this nation.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower was sworn into office for a second term as President of the United States of America in January, 1957, he rested his hand on a Bible given to him by his mother. The sacred volume was open at Psalm 33, verse 12:

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance."

President Eisenhower is a member of the National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., and his pastor, Dr. Edward Elson, states:

"By his regular participation in prayer and in Christian worship, by the maintenance of his personal spiritual life, and through his public utterances, the President is pointing America to the way of faith."

President Eisenhower himself declares:

"The churches of America are citadels of our faith in individual freedom and dignity. This faith is the living source of all our spiritual strength. And this strength is our matchless armor in the world-wide struggle against the forces of Godless tyranny and oppression. Undergirding all this is prayer."

On the second floor of a great skyscraper in Denver, Colorado, is a tiny chapel set apart as an unusual memorial to President Eisenhower. The entrance to the chapel is marked by a metal grille containing symbols of the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths. Inside this is a parchment scroll containing a statement of President Eisenhower's religious faith:

"You cannot explain free governments in any other terms than religious... Our Founding Fathers wrote their religious faith into our earliest documents, stamped their trust in God on coins, and put it boldly at the base of our institutions.. Our forefathers proved that only Godliness can make a people strong enough to overcome tyranny and make themselves and others free. Today it is ours to prove that our own faith is equal to the challenge of today's tyrants. Prayer today is a necessity."

Underneath a portrait of the President are these words: "Prayer gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in a crisis, and then the confidence to leave the result to a Higher Power."

One of the most beautiful mountain peaks in the Canadian Rockies is named "Mount Eisenhower" in honor of the

President of the United States bearing that name. (Because of his great leadership during the Second World War.) This is a unique symbol of a man whose lofty faith and firm belief in prayer challenge us to serve our nation, trusting in Divine Leadership.

There is an urgent call for spiritual citizenship today. Roger W. Babson informs us:

"America stands at the crossroads! We must choose between God and mammon. Materialism is undermining our civilization as it has undermined other civilizations. Unless we heed the warning in time and get back to the real fundamentals, we will fall as the ancient civilizations fell—and for the same reason."

Lewis K. Gough, a former National Commander of the American Legion, declares:

"To keep America great and good we must defeat the evil influences of Godlessness. We must go back to God, back to prayer and to the teachings of the Bible. So shall we best serve this great land that we love!"

*"Lord, hear us as we pray to Thee—
Preserve this land of liberty.
Not merely great, but also good,
Showing to all true brotherhood!
Teach us to pray, avoiding hates.
Dear God, bless the United States."*

IS MY OWN HOUSE IN ORDER?

By Harry Halsey Starrett

Before we presume to tell our neighbor how to conduct his house, let us first put our own house in order in accordance with God's intelligent, just, irrevocable and eternal plan. Before we attempt to redeem the world, let us first redeem ourselves through renunciation—a complete surrender of ourselves to God, ever mindful of the Master's tremendously significant pronouncement—"Of myself I can do nothing but the Father which dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." If Jesus, with all of His power, could do nothing of Himself, how can I? World improvement depends upon and must begin with individual improvement, and this improvement must be spiritual, for if we do not improve spiritually, we do not improve at all, for SPIRIT alone is real and eternal. This is our individual responsibility, and the way we respond to the challenge of our responsibilities is the measure of our spiritual growth and of our worthiness to become lightbearers and wayshowers to the world.

"He who loses his life for my sake shall find it." To lose ourselves in the service of others is to find ourselves,

reborn, in a new and better world—out of the unreal into the REAL; out of darkness into the LIGHT; out of death into ETERNAL LIFE.

This world is governed by the law of opposites; the law of action and reaction; the law of cause and effect. Everything in this world has its opposite—good and evil; light and darkness; love and hate; essential and nonessential; useful and useless; Infinite and finite; God and mammon; unity and separateness; order and chaos; temporal and eternal. Separateness is the cause of most of man's troubles, for man believes himself to be a separate being, ignorant of the truth that all life is ONE: that everything in God's creation is related; that every thought we think, every word we speak, every act we commit affects everything else in the universe. "We cannot touch a flower without disturbing the most distant star." One of the first lessons man must learn before he can enter upon the spiritual path is the ONENESS of all life, the Fatherhood of God and the Sonship and Brotherhood of man.

"Thou shalt love thy neigh-

bor as thyself." Thou shalt see thyself in thy neighbor. Until man learns this lesson, unity cannot prevail on this earth. So long as man looks upon himself as a separate being, that separateness will prevent the dissolving away of the barriers which separate nation from nation, delaying the establishment of the promised "Peace on earth, good will toward men" through the extension of God's Kingdom on earth, "that His will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven."

"Ye cannot serve God and mammon." So long as man serves mammon rather than God, just so long will he continue to be the slave of the vicissitudes of life which are the fruits of finite mind.

What the world needs more than anything else is illumination. Man, through the misuse of his God-given free-will, turned his back on the LIGHT and walked in the darkness of his own shadow, and in that shadow he transgressed the laws of God, bringing upon himself and upon the world the deplorable conditions rampant in the world today. Man's only hope and the only hope of the world is, therefore, for him to turn about, face and walk in the LIGHT, casting his shadow be-

hind him, for it is only in the LIGHT OF TRUTH that we find freedom—"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." May the first and great command of the Creator "LET THERE BE LIGHT," reverberate from our souls, back to God who gave it, as a prayer for deliverance from the darkness of ignorance and may the LIGHT THAT LIGHTETH THE WORLD illumine our hearts and minds and lead us "in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake," reflecting this ETERNAL LIGHT into the lives of our fellowmen whom we meet along life's highway, and may this command of the Creator, which brought all things into being, echo and re-echo from the depths of our souls, now and throughout all eternity.

Good is the only power that can overcome evil—"Resist not evil but overcome evil with good." Love is the only power that can overcome hate and bring "Peace on earth, good will toward men." Good is eternal, evil is temporal.

Let us pray without ceasing for illumination for the whole world, that unity may evolve out of diversity; that all the peoples of the earth may dwell together in freedom, peace, and joy unspeakable.

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PRAYERS FOR OUR DAY

By Roy Wallace Thomas

FORWARD

The other day a friend telephoned me to tell of his recent adventures among his many friends. He was surprised to find that a large number of them were afraid. "Aren't you afraid?" they asked repeatedly. "No, I am not afraid," he told them. "Why should a Christian be afraid? If death should come from an atomic or hydrogen bomb attack, I shall be unafraid." He himself had found the supreme therapeutic: "Perfect love casts out fear."

It is true that the world is in crisis, for the world has been always, at frequent intervals, in crisis. We need not minimize the danger, nor lose courage and yield to despair. Religion only can give the ultimate answer. God is not dead. The proper formula for both peace of mind and for function of the whole self is true faith. The path of faith lies between cynical despair on the one hand and sentimental credulity on the other. Belief in any form of magic is a perilous escape. Magic and superstition, however pi-

ous, being hostile both to science and genuine religion, have no place in this atomic age.

Nothing is more mediocre than cynicism. Faith is realistic. It dares to find an unshakable foundation in the goodness and justice of God, our Creator. The shine of faith is the *glow of life*. Faith is divinely active. It not only gives the individual the comfort he needs, but also keeps him at work with all men of good will, throughout the earth. The most hopeful sign in the contemporary scene is the fact that the people of good will are increasing in numbers around the world. Never were there more of them. They seek to foster in all diplomacy that statesmanship which strives to remove the virus of war from the hearts of all men. Faith in God gives vision, courage, strength, hope, and leads to ultimate triumph. In simple, classic words, the theme of the oratorio of faith was splendidly stressed by a Psalmist of long ago: "Hope thou in God."

A Prayer for Brotherhood—

O God, we are thankful that thy righteous rule is justice

tempered with infinite compassion. Thou dost make the upright man and the dedicated nation a Good Samaritan in this world of cruel pride and greed. Thou hast showed us, O God, what is good. What dost thou require of us but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thee as Companion and Friend? We crave the justice of all the laws of love in all the dealings of men: that legislatures may frame constitutions and laws giving security to every citizen, equal opportunities of education and career to every youth, a fair wage to all who toil, whether employer or employee, with adequate care for the orphans, the widows, the unfortunate, and the aged. We give ourselves to the work of building a righteous world where all men shall be brothers and creative citizens, free of ignorance, want, misery, and oppression; a free world where each man shall enjoy his share of the fruits of talent and toil, and shall be fed to the full with the bread of earth and the bread of truth. Amen.

When Wars Threaten--

O God, how great is thy love! As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so is thy love round about us. Nations fall, but thy strength abides. The stars and the island universes hold to their orbits. Earthly hopes fail, but thy wisdom and goodness endure. Thou art not a God who sleeps: "the creation, finished, is renewed forever." Thou alone, in the light of thine eternal purpose, canst guide us out of the disasters of sin and ignorance and greed for power. Thy love is a holy fire that evil never can quench. In thy guidance is hope in the face of despair. We cast our burdens upon thy love, even the enormous burden of the fear of war and the rumors of war. We choose thee and thy way that we may not fail. Where thou leadest we will follow, "amid the encircling gloom,"

*"O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone."*

For we know the time will come when mankind's turbulent night will be gone, and thy glorious light will be ascendant in the new day. We take our place in the legion of God-illuminated men of good will, who alone can break the rod of the ag-

gressor and build a world of enduring peace, because their weapon is the two-edged sword of thy truth. We set our minds on thy will, for in thy will is our victory. Amén.

We Turn from Our Failures—

O God, thy goodness is everlasting,
Thy glory is the highest theme of song.
Humbled by thy shining righteousness
We repent of our sins for they are very great.
We have not always walked in the splendor of thy light.
Even by apathy and silence
We have shared the sin of the world.
We have not stedfastly worked with thy will
To build the good world free from tyranny
And free from cruelty, misery and greed.
We and our fellow men, not thee, O Lord,
Are guilty of injustice, of moral chaos,
Of the crimes of want and war.
We turn from our failures to thy better way;
We join our wills to thine to be used of thee,
That the excellent abundance of thy peace
May replenish the earth as in heaven. Amen.

CARRY ON--

“Lot’s wife looked back to see the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and she became a pillar of salt. People who insist on looking back at their troubles are likely to become solidified in them. The salt will be furnished by their tears. Cultivate praise, peace, courage, joy, tolerance, poise, and relaxation. Stop worrying about what *other* people are doing and concentrate on finding a better way to do what *you* are doing.”

(Observed by B. Flora Horton)

Words of Wisdom

From ONE MOMENT PLEASE!

By James Keller

In George Washington's farewell address, published in September 1796, six months before he left office, our first President made it clear to the skeptics of his day the damage they might do the nation if they by-passed religion. In Washington's own words:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

"The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support . . . of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But . . . it is easy to foresee that from different causes and from different quarters much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth, as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively—though often covertly and insidiously—directed."

"Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (Psalm 126:1)

(Used by permission of the Author)

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IN A UNIVERSE

In a universe whose soul is Good,
I feel, in neighborhood or nation,
Evil can wear no darker hood
Than a mood that seeks retaliation.

—Lori Petri



A M E R I C A ON ITS KNEES:

... not beaten there by the hammer and sickle,
but FREELY, INTELLIGENTLY, RESPONSIBLY, CONFIDENTLY, POWERFULLY
America now knows it can destroy communism and win the battle for
peace. We need fear nothing or no one... ...except GOD.

* * *

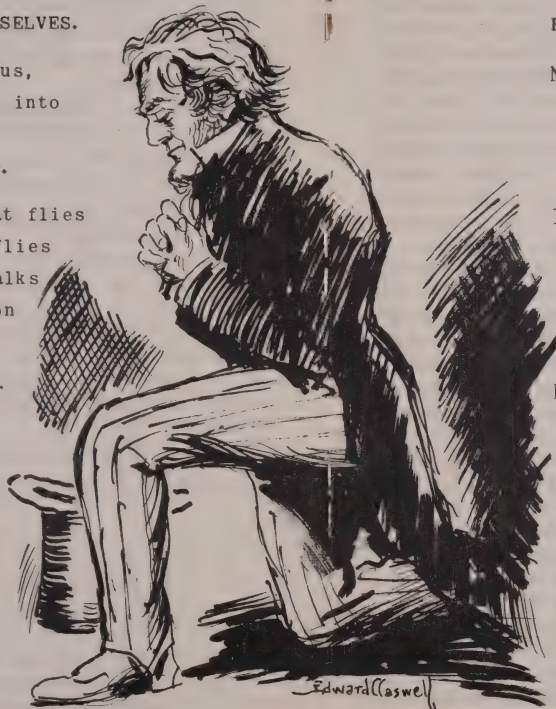
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN:

WE PRAY THAT YOU SAVE US FROM OURSELVES.

THE WORLD that you have made for us,
to live in peace, we have made into
an armed camp.
We live in fear of war to come.

WE ARE afraid of "the terror that flies
by night, and the arrow that flies
by day, the pestilence that walks
in darkness and the destruction
that wastes at noon-day."

WE HAVE turned from YOU to go our
selfish way.
We have broken YOUR command-
ments and denied YOUR truth.
We have left YOUR altars to
serve the false gods of money
and pleasure and power.



(Drawing by Edward C. Caswell
Courtesy of MURRAY HILL NEWS)

FORGIVE US AND HELP US.

NOW, darkness gathers around us and we
are confused in all our counsels.
Losing faith in YOU, we lose faith
in ourselves.

INSPIRE US with wisdom, all of us of
every color, race and creed,
to use our wealth, our strength to
help our brother, instead of destroy-
ing him.

HELP US to do YOUR will as it is done in
heaven and to be worthy of YOUR promise
of peace on earth.

FILL US with new faith, new strength and
new courage, that we may win the
Battle for Peace.

BE SWIFT to save us, dear GOD, before the
darkness falls.

(Used by special permission of Conrad N. Hilton)

PRAYER AND WORLD PEACE

By Swami Ritajananda

It was a cold, rainy afternoon. The door-bell rang. As we were not expecting guests we began to wonder who the visitor could be at such an hour, in the pouring rain. When the door was opened a lady, an absolute stranger, walked in. She had a few papers in her hand and asked if I could spare her some time. Since I was not too busy I agreed to listen to her.

"I think you are aware of the fact that they are testing the new atomic weapons," she began. "Don't you think it will be a terrible menace to the world? Think of the harm it will do not only to the present generation but to all the generations of the future. Is it not time for us to protest? Is it not our duty to work for the welfare of the world? Can we be simply spectators to the evil that is coming over us?" She continued for some time in this manner and at length expressed her desire to work out some kind of clear and forceful protest. This incident took place a year ago but I have never forgotten it.

Not only my visitor but many hundreds and thousands throughout the world feel

the same way. They feel that something should be done. It seems to be a vital problem, more urgent than the problem of increased taxes or the failure of harvests. For these are only temporary problems. Far more important is the future safety and well-being of the world itself. Recently 4,000 scientists from all the nations of the world have expressed their opinion that these atomic blasts should be stopped. For a layman these opinions are very valuable, since the scientists have a greater understanding of the problem of radiation and its harmful effects. No wonder people have been feeling that something ought to be done.

The next question is how to manage it; how to realize effectively all our good wishes. Can anyone argue about this problem with the leaders? Can it be convincingly demonstrated? Is it possible to win all political leaders of the entire world to our viewpoint? Can we hope for some world leader to appear?

No such world leader has so far appeared on earth. Any person born in a country is judged by the outside world in terms of his race, his nationality, the position of

his country's culture in relation to theirs, and so on. In other words, no one will ever be given world leadership, for other nations will feel humiliated in giving the first rank to a foreign nation. But even if we cannot have a world leader of this kind, we want to do something to improve the present conditions. We want to build up a world society that thinks about the good of all and the welfare of all. We want to draw the attention of every human being irrespective of race, religion, color, or creed.

Although atomic weapons are powerful and can destroy thousands of people in a few seconds, *words and thoughts have power greater than these destructive forces*. Their effects are not for a few seconds but for eternity. Even after hundreds of years the words of great prophets can rouse us to action, and can enter any part of the world. They also have the power to destroy—not life but ignorance; not cities but superstition; not nations but hatred. A sincere, well-meant prayer can travel long and far. It can bring good to the one who prays and to those for whom it is offered. Hatred and violence were overcome by prophets like Buddha and Jesus not by fighting against them, not by

strong words or sharp weapons, but by thoughts that were so fine and powerful that when they were set down on paper their appeal is still as strong as ever, even today. That is the weapon Mahatma Gandhi used to awaken the whole population of India. His prayer meetings were attended by thousands of people of all types. That weapon brought courage and faith to the Indian masses. It enabled them to face suffering because they felt they were in the right. The call for prayer and the formation of prayer groups can tap the soul force of many people for a noble cause.

The force of prayer works on two levels. First it prepares the individual for the building up of the power latent in him, and then it gives the direction for the flow of this power. When we read the history of various religions we see that these two factors worked side by side. The saint or prophet first went through the process of purification, that is, the elimination of everything that clung to his narrow self and prevented him from seeing the world beyond himself. In that process of purgation he or she first got rid of all the bondages that kept the ego encased; then came the expansion of the new ego, the purified ego, where

the feeling of oneness with all of humanity became a fact. It was not an intellectual conviction but an inward realization, which could not be shaken by the outside world. It was in this realization that their power to work lay. And as its result all fear vanished. For when all are your own, whom should you fear? Even bodily harm done to them meant nothing, for they had ceased to identify themselves with the body and had really become the personification of an ideal. When they died, the ideals they embodied did not die with them but in fact gained more life and became more powerful.

Worldly wisdom suggests we should be thrifty. We should not waste our wealth on trifles but save it for a better use. Why should we not use our soul force in a better way than resisting evil? That is

the advice of the saviors of humanity. They preached it and showed its efficacy by practice. Such nonresistance is not a weakness but is in reality an act of tremendous control, building in the individual a great spiritual power of the kind that the world sorely needs just now. It is not a cowardly submission to evil but a courageous stand that is grounded in knowledge, faith, and love. Just as little drops of water make the mighty ocean, so our little words of prayer can develop for each of us a mighty personality; and the sum of all our good and holy thoughts can surely build a strong group who can bring a change of outlook to the world. Their dedicated lives will not go in vain. The power of their thought cannot be destroyed by gunpowder or atomic blasts but will endure.

Let His love direct your spirit

All day through.

It will make those near you happy

And you, too.

--Clarine B. West.

The Choice is Yours

From JUST FOR TODAY

By James Keller

The wisdom of Abraham Lincoln is particularly evident in these eight timeless observations, which seem to apply even more to our day than they did to his:

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
4. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.
5. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
6. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
7. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
8. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

There are innumerable ways in which all of us can, under God, be constructive. It takes little more time and effort to build up than to tear down—to improve rather than merely disapprove. It is up to you to see the difference between positive action and negative criticism.

“Why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye; and seest not the beam that is in thy own eye?”

(Used by permission of the Author)

“Not in armaments is a nation's strength.
Not in gold, its wealth; not in conquest, its glory.
For the rewards of battle vanish;
The enduring victories are the conquests of peace.
In fair dealing lies a people's strength;
In freedom to achieve, its riches;
In the men it rears, its greatness.”

THE FULNESS OF FAITH! HOW CAN WE MAKE IT OUR OWN?

By Donald Harrington

Faith is one of the conditions of life. Faith in oneself and one's value in the scheme of things is necessary for mental health. Faith in one's fellow men, in their essential goodness, potential friendliness and good will is necessary for society to be able to function. Faith in the universal processes which move around and within us, which support us and destroy us, which both delight us and frighten us, in which our lives are inextricably interwoven, is necessary for peace of mind. Faith in some ultimate Meaning and Purpose behind it all, that we call God, is necessary for confidence in times of great confusion and for serenity of spirit in the face of the Unknown.

Faith is not so much a belief as it is an attitude. It is not basically theological, but psychological. Very often beliefs are sold in the name of faith, but this is dangerous, for beliefs will change with new information and then faith will be shattered. Faith is an attitude of confidence in life and its goodness, in oneself and the potentials of life, in one's fellow men, in the future, in truth and the means for its discovery, and

in the purposes which lie behind all things.

Such faith is not to be found in highly emotional experiences of conversion, or in vain, pitiful repetitions of optimistic pleasantries about oneself and life. These are, in fact, evidence of a serious lack of faith, a frightened groping about for some cheap and easy substitute for a full and living inner condition of faith. They usually react like all such crutches in making the user more and more dependent upon them for support. They substitute irrational belief or verbal reassurance for the living condition.

Faith is grown within each life. The process begins at birth. Confidence and caution contend for the soul of each human being as the days of his years and growth pass by.

Every experience makes its contribution. Where confidence is shown, there is always a response within the soul, an effort to rise to meet its challenge. With growing competence, faith slowly almost imperceptibly, but with inexorable certainty emerges in human life. That faith extends beyond the self to others with whom it inter-

acts. Competence inspires confidence, as confidence feeds competence. It widens to embrace the community, the nation, mankind. It reaches out to clasp the universe and rejoice in God.

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ARE WE SO WISE

Are we so wise, so busy with each
hour,
That we cannot a moment stop and
ask
Dear God, we humbly thank Thee for
each flower
Whose radiance will illuminate
each task
With beauty. Take and heed, even
children know
How sweet the sun and rain fall on
their cheek,
Are we so wise that we forget to
grow,
To open soul and mind that we may
seek
And learn what youth has found with
open heart.
How can we build a world of peace-
filled days,
If from all youthful hope we can
depart
To go our adult pessimistic ways.
God grant us youthful hearts and
minds to build,
If we who are so wise want dreams
fulfilled.

--Zelma Dennis.

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TIME AND TIMELINESS

"TIME is for people who are excited about tomorrow"—this is Time, the weekly news magazine speaking for itself in its own columns and aided by means of a clever type design, our thought is sent rocketing into the realms of space. When we settle back to earth and the word TIME resumes its more literal meaning we realize the statement is startling.

TIME, another of God's wonderful gifts to man, is ours to use, to fill, to live. It does not stand still; we cannot stop it, nor slow it down, nor hasten it up, although scientists might have seemed to tamper with the idea. We can of course, as the sayings go, waste it, throw it away, or even kill it. But time is ours and its true value is only for people who will meet each day and expect the next with joy.

The passing of that disquieted year of 1957 brought us further into a new era fraught with alarm. Voices continuously dinning at our ears would frighten us with ominous prophecies, would urge us to hasty decisions, overnight revisions of policies, traditions, hopes and endeavors—men and nations pulling pushing, shouting, rushing to precipitate all into a future

holding no man knows what.

It is vitally important that we use our time wisely and expeditiously. Let us be intensely excited about tomorrow but let it be *the tomorrow of eternity*—eternity, all the time there is, encompassing all humanity.

The apathy of which our beloved homeland accuses itself in both spoken and printed opinion is an apathy of *SPIRITUAL* growth and action far more serious than any physical apathy. Our spokesmen blaming each other for things undone or overstressed in their diverse fields, whether politics, defense, science, business, or education, are themselves badly frightened men. Their tomorrow seems imminently explosive, their excitement of panic and terror. We must listen intently through the confusion of voices to hear one that sounds a note of quiet confidence, of faith. Few ask us to join them in prayer but if we will listen, we do hear them.

Occasionally we feel that precious excitement born of hope, of inspiration, the sound of a reassuring voice. The simple, direct Christmas message of Queen Elizabeth calling for a courage which is needed to "stand up for

what we know is right, for everything that is true and honest—to show the world that we are not afraid of the future. It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.”

Fellowship in Prayer gains that kind of courage from pursuit of its purpose, the promotion of prayer among *all* people of all nations—not only for self-preservation, but prayer of gratitude for the goodness that we see, experience, and share daily.

Our excitement should not be of fear, of panic, of alarm over recession, unemployment, or crime. Are we a people to be intimidated by words of a man pictured on the cover of this same newsmagazine with the Kremlin as his crown, the sputnik his symbol of power? There is the prayer that calms. Are we aware of the multitudes of people whose prayers may be that the safety of their families and the peace of their homelands be protected against the American, the western way? And there should be the prayer that leads to understanding.

It may be well for us to use a little of the time allotted to us before tomorrow—to take stock of ourselves as individuals and of our individual places in our homeland. Personal prestige, education,

wealth, influence—of what importance are these as compared to the patient effort of a prayerful man with an unswerving faith in the all-embracing goodness of God. This man is not hurried nor tardy in judgment; his faith is as constant and as steady as time itself; his prayer for wisdom and guidance is unceasing. For him there is no race against time, against space, against man, or against the universe.

The most important moment of time is the moment *right now*. Another of God's gifts should be the realization that any moment is the right moment to call upon Him and to commune with Him. The heritage of our homeland has come from hardy pioneering, scientific development, etc., but strongest support for any of these has been *spiritual* confidence. Fellowship in Prayer is for the furtherance of this spiritual confidence, with which only a new world can be made.

Years have passed since man first learned to synchronize time. It would today be quite possible for men in every land, each in his own tongue and at his own hearth to join all others in simultaneous, fearless and selfless prayers to the greater glory of the Creator. Is it not the right time for us to feel the excitement of such a tomorrow?

VINTAGE

Grant, Lord, when I grow old
 My spirit may grow young,
 And if few words or none
 Fall from my tongue,
 May the music of prayer
 Be too full to express,
 And let my heart gather
 From silence her peace.

—A. E. Johnson.

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A P P R E C I A T I O N

We extend to our contributing editors our sincere appreciation for their articles used in this number and for their constant and loyal cooperation. We wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Conrad N. Hilton for the prayer on the middle spread, and to Mr. Edward C. Caswell,

who contributed the illustration for "America on Its Knees." This drawing first appeared in the Murray Hill News and is used through the courtesy of this paper. In addition we extend our deep appreciation for the following appearing in this issue of "Fellowship in Prayer"—

GOD KEEP AMERICA and
 VINTAGE

by Prof. A. E. Johnson.

WORDS OF WISDOM and
 THE CHOICE IS YOURS
 IN A UNIVERSE

by Father James Keller, M.M.

by Lori Petri.

Verse

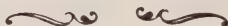
by Mrs. Clarine B. West.

THE FULNESS OF FAITH
 ARE WE SO WISE
 CARRY ON

by Rev. Donald Harrington.

by Mrs. Zelma Dennis.

(Observed by Miss B. F. Horton).



NOTICES and COMMENTS

NEW ADVISOR AND CONTRIBUTING EDITOR. We extend a cordial welcome to Dr. S. R. Shafaq as an advisor and contributing editor. Dr. Shafaq is a graduate of Robert College, Istanbul, 1918, and secured a Ph.D. degree from Berlin University in 1928. He is a professor at the University of Teheran and a member of Iran's legislative body. In 1952 he was visiting professor at Columbia University and the following year he was a lecturer at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Shafaq has been a member of the Human Rights Subcommittee of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and on September 27, 1952, he presented a resolution to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination, favoring comparative study of religions by UNESCO as a means of promoting understanding and abolishing prejudices based on misconceptions. The resolution was adopted. Upon Dr. Shafaq's return to Teheran from Pakistan, we look forward to hearing from him.

DR. W. J. THOMPSON HONORED. The American Poetry League has extended to Dr. W. J. Thompson an invitation to become a member, in recognition of his contributions "to fine arts, more especially creative writing in poetry." The American Poetry League has a limited membership of poets, educators, authors, and editors of poetry magazines, and membership is by invitation only. Congratulations, Dr. Thompson!

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. As this issue goes to press, the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees is being prepared. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we are able to report to the board and members of Fellowship in Prayer that progress moves steadily forward. A marked increase in subscribers to the publication has indeed been most gratifying. We appreciate the cooperation of all who are helping toward furthering our purpose, and look forward to an ever widening circle of friends.

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O God, in whom the many generations of mankind live and move and have their being:

We remember with gratitude all those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country.

May no forgetfulness of ours make them to have perished as though they had never been.

To the end that these dead shall not have died in vain may we receive with fit humility the fruits of their sacrifice, and carry on to further fulfilment their dearest hopes for this their land and ours.

—Willard L. Sperry.



Fellowship in Prayer
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